

COMPUTER ^{User} _{News}

Monthly Publication of the Kentucky-Indiana Personal Computer Users Group

November 2006 Volume 25, No. 11

Meeting Starts at 7:00 PM



Video Productions

3D Effects on a Tight Budget

November 7, 2006

General Public is invited to attend.
Free Program Starts at 7:00 PM
Directions - Page 3

www.kipcug.org

KIPUCUG

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Half Page (3 col x 5")	140.00
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KENTUCKY-INDIANA PERSONAL COMPUTER USERS GROUP, INC.

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Submissions

Articles should be submitted as a **Word document** and submitted one month in advance. If graphics are included, they should be submitted in TIF file format whenever possible. All graphics must be converted to TIF or PDF file formats before publication.

Supporters

*Please support them with
your business*

The vendors listed have contributed hardware or software to KIPCUG to assist in production of the organization's monthly magazine. We encourage you to support these vendors who are helping to support KIPCUG.

**Lexmark Optra R+ Laser Printer
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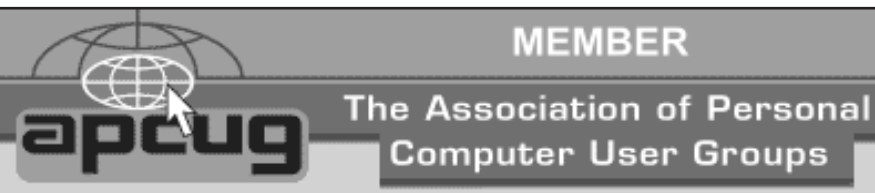
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Advertising materials must be submitted four weeks prior to publication. Editorial submissions must be submitted three weeks prior to publication.

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The editors reserve the right to make any changes deemed necessary to any editorial matter submitted or to refuse publication of any material submitted.

Direct all magazine correspondence to the Editor at KIPCUG, 291 N. Hubbards Lane, Suite B-26-318, Louisville, KY 40207 or to editor@kipcug.org.



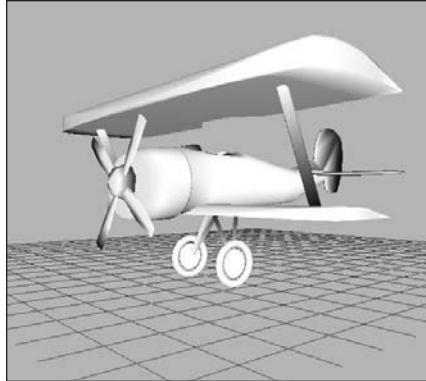
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Over the Program Director's Shoulder

By Wayne Perkey, KIPCUG

November

November looks to be an interesting program. Remember, due to elections we will be starting later, at 7:00 pm. Our main presenter is Warren Philpot. Warren Philpot is the owner of Lunafire Productions, a local video production company. He has been involved in various technology fields for over 25 years, including programming, system integration, business analysis, network management and video technology. His topic is "3D Effects on a Tight Budget". It should be a great program.



In addition, we have our own Brian Miller discussing our KIPCUG Forums in the Back to Basics segment, and of course you can get your questions answered in the User to User segment. We will have our usual door prizes, and raffle! So see you in November!!

Back to Basics Topic

KIPCUG Forums

by

Brian Miller



Photos by
Judy Lococo

CONGRATULATIONS

TO

WILLIAM LEWIS

ON OCTOBER 3

HE WON THE RAFFLE

17" VIEWSONIC

FLAT PANEL

October

Wow! What a meeting in October. Thanks to Hostaroo for the Ice Cream! A grand time was had by all. Our recycling program was a large success as well. We took in a large number of computers and monitors. Thanks to all who donated. Thanks to Keith Stenger for a most informative look at Windows Vista. He certainly gave us an in-depth look at Microsoft's new OS. Thanks also to Matt Mercurio for his Back to Basics on Podcasting.

MEETING DIRECTIONS

Christ Church United Methodist
4614 Brownsboro Road

From I-264 (Watterson X-Way) take the US-42/Brownsboro Road exit number 22 turning left onto Brownsboro Road if you were traveling East on I-264 (turn right instead if you were traveling West on I-264). Continue for about 0.6 miles turning left at the traffic light at Blankenbaker Lane and turn left into the Church parking lot. Look for the signs.

Maps are at www.ccum.net and www.kipcug.org

WHERE YOU THERE?
CONGRATULATIONS

TO

BILL EDWARDS

ON OCTOBER 3

HE WON

\$40

NEXT MONTH

THE PRIZE WILL BE

\$20.

WILL YOU BE THERE?

President's Desk

By Bill Buzan, KIPCUG

As many of you know, KIPCUG has begun a new and very expansive program to serve our community and especially the less fortunate youth. We have begun the collection of old computers, keyboards, mice, printers and anything else that may in some way be used to teach and train those children that may not

have the opportunity to be exposed to computers and their operation.

At the last General Meeting, we announced the collection of items. I was very humbled when, upon asking the attending members for a donation of their time and talents, 17 % signed up to help work on the project. Truly, our members don't just come to learn and win door prizes.

Anyone that was unable to be at the last meeting and would like to volunteer some of their time and talents would be appreciated by all. Call or email one of the officers and let us know of your desires.

KIPCUG is finding its purpose with the help of its members.

Thank you.

Digital Resolution Made Confusing

By Dave Chrestenson, Member of the Fox Valley PC Association, Illinois, Digital Photographer and Hobbyist

There seems to be a plethora of articles on the number of pixels required to create your photos to their full glory. Many of the articles disagree with each other and some are mystifying (to say the least); occasionally a few are wrong. So here I will approach it from a different point of view, I'll give you the knowledge and let you decide what you need. Ready? Here we go!

Let's start with some facts. (I'll reconsider these later, but we have to start somewhere.) First, the average eye, relaxed, focuses at a distance of about fifteen inches. So that's about the distance people view their prints.

Second, the angle of comfortable vision (not acute) is generally agreed to be about fifty to fifty-five degrees. Beyond that is peripheral vision. Now, fifty degrees at fifteen inches subtends a distance of about thirteen inches, just covering the

diagonal of an 8x10. Is it any wonder that size is so popular?

And third, the typical eye has a resolution of about one minute of angle. This works out, at fifteen inches, to about .004 inches, or approximately 229 dots in an inch. (For purposes of clarity I will use the term pixels when referring to the camera sensor and dots when referring to the print. But in this discussion they can be considered equivalent.) Don't compare this with the resolution (normally also referred to as dots) of printers. They are completely different animals. (Subject for another article?)

For convenience and to assure a tolerance, for now let's round that up to 300 dpi. This means that we need 300 dpi (at 15 inches) on the paper to assure that we won't see individual dots. Now, it's easy enough to work backwards from there. Assume that we wish to print an 8x10. Ten inches across at 300 dpi is 3000 dots. Eight inches down at 300 dpi is 2400 dots. So we need a camera of 3000 x 2400 pixels, or 7.2 meg. (This is assuming a camera

with square pixels, not all have that. The Fuji S3 for example has hexagonal pixels, two sizes, no less. Subject for still another article?) Simple huh? Maybe.

But let's try another example first. Assume you just want to print a picture half that size, 4 x 5 is more common. Then 4 times 300 equals 1200 and 5 times 300 equals 1500, so our camera need only be 1.8 meg. That's not so bad, is it? But before you dash right out to buy a 2 meg camera on sale, let's take a look at some of those original figures.

I said that the average eye views an image at 15 inches. That's an "average" eye. It can vary from that... a lot. Depending on age, it can go from 3 inches (a youngster) to more than 6 feet (an old timer). And that's for an eye that's working well. Near-sighted? You'll hold the picture closer. (Assuming you don't wear correction lenses, of course.) Far-sighted? Further away. Have astigmatism? A mess! So, if you hold your picture at 7.5 inches, you will need twice the number of pixels, or 600, per inch. An 8x10 would

Digital Resolution Made Confusing (cont.)

require a 28.8 meg camera. Good grief! Thirty inches viewing distance is a lot easier, a 1.8 meg one will do the job. Also, some eyes can see significantly better than one minute of angle, some can reach ½ minute. That's even worse; you need 600 dpi at 15 inches, which means we're back to a 28.8 meg camera for an 8x10, and a 7.2 meg one for a 4x5. But you can do the math. And do you really need to have the dots as small as theory suggests? Well, to make it more confusing, there are other considerations that affect that. Bright lighting needs higher resolution, dim lighting needs less. Glossy paper? Higher resolution. Matt paper, less. High contrast image, more, low contrast, less. Ad infinitum.

Finally, what if you have taken the definitive photo of Yosemite, the

one to equal Ansel Adams, and you want to have it printed at, say, 16x20 and frame it. Do you still need 300 dpi? Probably not. After all, people don't normally hold a 16x20 in their hands and look at it from 15 inches. Remember the 50 degree vision. So, you'll probably be hanging it on the wall, where they will view it from a distance. Experience shows that people will move backward or forward when viewing a picture until it subtends that 50 degree angle. So you might well get away with 150 dpi.

But, getting back to the more normal usage, handheld prints, do you need 300 dpi there? Again, maybe.

In many cases you may get away with less. But if you go below 150 dpi you are almost certain to get obvious visual pixilation at that distance. Of course, Photoshop to the rescue, you can resample upwards and increase the number of pixels to what works. You're not adding detail, but at least you're getting rid of those annoying "jaggies."

Clear? I didn't think so. Remember, I said "Made Confusing." But at least you are now confused on a much higher plane! Good luck.

Editor's Note: This article is distributed by the APCUG Editorial Committee.

Membership

By Tom Denning, KIPCUG

Please welcome KIPCUG's newest members.

BOBBY GIBSON
KEITH STENGER
JAY ANGAL
CHARLES M WAFLART
FRED C BURKS, JR
SIMON WOLF
MARSHA OSBORNE
LYNN HARRELSON

Each new person that you invite to a KIPCUG meeting can earn a FREE month of dues for you if they join as an Individual or Family member! If you liked the Meeting, they will too!



Free Seminars
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Meeting your needs ... Exceeding your expectations

Distinguishing Forests from Trees in Search Engine Results

By Gabe Goldberg, APCUG Advisor and HCIL Media Fellow

Some people cherish details without grasping the big picture. They can't see the forest for the trees, always miss the landscape's glory. Searching the Web can feel like this. Search engines cheerfully deliver millions of search result hits without revealing patterns or gaps in the data. Even worse, hardly anyone looks beyond the first screen of search results. Researchers are investigating how organizing search results provides contextual and visual cues that make searches more powerful.

We all know people who cherish tiny details, but never quite grasp the big picture. They're figuratively unable to see the forest for the trees, missing the landscape's glory while obsessing over whatever grows in front of their nose.

Sometimes searching the Web feels like this. Google or any favorite search engine can cheerfully deliver a thousand -- or two million -- search result hits yet not reveal patterns, groupings, or gaps in what it quickly but mindlessly displays. Making things worse, hardly anyone looks at search results beyond the first screen or two; we either settle for one of the first few links, or add search words to prune our results. But this runs two risks.

First, we may miss a key Web site that for some reason isn't highly ranked by our search engine. Not everyone knows that search engines rank results using proprietary criteria; even worse, ranking methods often change without notice, so

identical searches days or weeks apart may yield very different results. Second, there's no clue or cue about search result patterns. And the human mind can't grasp a thousand - let alone two million - links to see what they might collectively reveal.

Enter Bill Kules and Ben Shneiderman, respectively Graduate Research Assistant and Computer Science Professor at the University of Maryland. They're investigating how organizing the display of search results provides contextual and visual cues that make searches more powerful.

Their technology, partially supported by an AOL Fellowship in Human-Computer Interaction, is ideal when searchers are unsure of the target or goal. This is a variation on the famous Supreme Court quote: searchers may not know what they're looking for, but they recognize it when they see it.

Results, arranged in meaningful and stable categories using structures created by Kules' SERVICE program (as opposed to the ad hoc clustering used by some commercial search engines), are shown in a compact listing in the left side navigation bar. Important text (title, snippet, URL) is arranged for efficient scanning and skimming. SERVICE retains benefits of the traditional ranked results list, while adding an overview.

The list allows efficiently scanning and skimming title/snippet/URL, which remains a critical task. The categorized overview adds another perspective on results,

showing their distribution across categories. The overview also lets users explore results, narrowing them to a single category or subcategory.

Categorizing results is proving to change peoples' search style. For some searchers, the categorized overview simplified formulating queries. They issued a somewhat broad query and then browsed the appropriate category. Others used the overview to organize exploration of results, first perusing results in the Business category, then Science, Health, etc. Other users only used categories when frustrated by normal searching.

An interesting surprise is that empty categories -- which might have been expected to include results -- are in fact meaningful in some searches. For more information visit <http://www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/categorizedsearch>.

This article originated on the University of Maryland's Human-Computer Interaction Laboratory Web site, www.cs.umd.edu/hcil/, and is copyrighted by the university. All rights are reserved; it may be reproduced, downloaded, disseminated, or transferred, for single use, or by nonprofit organizations for educational purposes, with attribution to the university. It should be unchanged and this paragraph included.

Editor's Note: Gabe Goldberg's email is gabe@gabegold.com. This article is distributed by the APCUG Editorial Committee.

BASICS: Software with New Computers

By Hilton Kaufman, member of the Chicago Computer Society, Illinois www.ccs.org

When a typical consumer buys a computer, some software or programs normally come with it. Just what is included will vary with price and brand, but it usually includes an operating system as a minimum. It is possible to get a custom-built machine without any software, if this is actually wanted.

I recently bought an HP Media Computer, that I consider an overkill machine, for home use. A lot of software comes with it. There are several separate programs for working with audio-visual files and DVDs, two money management programs, several games, two internet browsers, two office suites plus an extra word processor, a security program, and probably a few other small programs.

In the vast majority of computers delivered today, the operating system that is included is some version of Windows XP. This includes a number of possibly useful programs in a folder or directory called Accessories. For many people, this will be all that is needed to get good use out of a computer.

The manufacturer of the machine very likely included some additional programs. Maybe this brings you up to your required level of software. If you do need more, the included programs may provide deals or better prices on the others that you need.

Check out what you have before rushing out to buy more.

Microsoft Windows Media Player

should be adequate for playing most music and video files and comes with the operating system. The major competing program, RealPlayer, also seems to have come with the operating system. (I believe there is some sort of legal requirement that it be included.) In addition to playing music, you can also do things like listen to the hourly online BBC news headlines.

I personally do not use either of the money management programs, Microsoft Money and Quicken. I may be a bit paranoid, but I do not put personal financial data on a computer that is regularly connected to the Internet. Spyware gets on computers too easily, even with good defenses.

I find several of the games to be fun to play, as well as good to kill time when I don't want to do anything serious. The virtual pinball machine comes complete with arcade noises and has the same motif as the last real one that I had a chance to play some years ago. Free Cell is a thinker's card game with most deals possible to win. There is also a straight solitaire game that is quite popular among long-time computer users.

Both Internet Explorer and Netscape are included. My Internet service provider seems to prefer to work with Internet Explorer. The default setting that came with my machine was Netscape. Other browsers can be downloaded, if wanted.

There is a minimal level word processor, called WordPad, that comes with Windows operating systems. For many computer users,

it is perfectly adequate. It will do letters and small plain text documents, such as an article for publication in a computer club newsletter, quite well. There is a choice of font styles and colors. A common starting document, such as a letterhead, can be saved and renamed when used for another document.

Microsoft Works and Office are collections of related software or suites of programs for office purposes, with Office being the one for professional users and large offices. Both have word processors that are more powerful than WordPad. Most home and small business users have no reason to use anything more powerful than Works.

Without getting into a lot of details, I can say that Microsoft Office is a very powerful and versatile office suite. There are increasingly expensive versions available with programs of interest to limited numbers of users. I received a 60-day free demo of the bottom of the line version of Office with my computer. If I upgrade during the trial period, I need only to pay the upgrade price for even the most expensive version.

Some sort of security program came with the computer that would be good for a limited time unless I paid a subscription fee. Windows XP also has an adequate firewall for most users. I removed the security program since I am subscribing to an excellent one through my Internet service provider.

While the included programs you get can vary greatly with the brand and price of the machine, those that come with Windows XP remain

BASICS: Software with New Computers (cont.)

constant. You can have a machine built to order with hardly anything in it or fully loaded. The default word processing suite from Dell seems to be a Corel WordPerfect one, but you can order a Microsoft suite for a slightly higher price. An off-the-shelf Media Center machine will routinely come with a lot of stuff.

While each machine is different, you should learn what you already have before adding more programs.

You may already have something that will do what you want or will enable you to get a discount on what you want to add.

Hilton Kaufman serves as the technical support person in the procedures writing unit of the Illinois Department of Employment Security. As such, he uses the software provided to him to create forms, convert documents into PDFs, advise members of his unit as to how to use the available software,

and similar tasks.

For his home computer, he can go all out and get a powerful machine that allows him to do things like playing games and surf the web without getting in trouble. He has prepared a number of articles aimed at novice users on the basics of standard computer programs.

Editor's Note: Hilton Kaufman's email is hmkaufman@earthlink.net. This article is distributed by the APCUG Editorial Committee.

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For Your Information

Changes for mailing address, email address or telephone numbers should be sent to Tom Denning, Director of Membership. You can send the change to the KIPCUG mailing address printed on the back of this Magazine or by email to membership@kipcug.org. The KIPCUG Membership Renewal Link is on the web page at www.kipcug.org in the "For Your Information" section or you can access it directly at <http://www.kipcug.org/payment.htm>.

November 2006 KIPCUG Planner

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KIPCUG Special Interest Group Directory

ACCESS BASIC SIG

Meets at a date and location to be announced. Contact SIG LEADER Alan Birch at ajbirch@bellsouth.net or 429-0506

The SIG uses the tools that are available in Access without programming. Users bring problems and we come up with solutions.

ADVANCED USERS SIG

Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd Friday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Tom Scanlan at 1-502-477-1639 or tpscan@iglou.com

The SIG explores software and hardware topics of interest to people who are very comfortable with their computer and want to know even more. We encourage everyone to share their experiences so we can all learn and grow into areas we would not normally explore on our own.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SIG

Meets on the 4th Friday of specified months at Advanced Grinding and Machine Inc, 4644 Illinois Avenue. Contact TEAM MEMBER Beverly Setree at 452-9851 or beverly@advanced-grinding.com

This SIG takes donations of computer equipment and restores them to working condition. These computers can then be distributed to people in need, providing a valuable service to the community. We are always looking for donations. We also welcome people willing to help restore computers for distribution.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY SIG

Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Tuesday of the month at the LFPL-Bon Air Regional, 2816 Del Rio Place. Contact SIG DIRECTOR Charley May at sig@win.net or 773-7155

This SIG examines software and hardware topics that will make your photographic efforts more fun and rewarding. Members at any level of experience and with any type of digital camera are welcome. Please bring your camera, manual, photo CD and special soft-

ware. We will all increase our ability to understand digital photography.

EXCEL BASIC SIG

Meets 6:30 PM on the 2nd Monday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Jim Boneck at jboneck@yahoo.com

This SIG starts with questions about home or work projects or last month's material. Feel free to bring your data or existing spreadsheet. We present new material and the opportunity to practice this material. The computer lab has computers for your use, but some people bring their laptops so they can practice and ask questions about their particular situation.

GENEALOGY SIG

Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of the month at the LFPL-Eline Branch at St. Matthews City Hall Building at the corner of Grandview Ave. and Fairfax Ave. about 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Rd. Contact SIG LEADER Susan Moore at 499-5222 or mooresk@win.net, www.genealogy-family.com

The Genealogy SIG has presentations on the use of The Master Genealogist software. TMG is a full-featured database that can help you organize, research and publish your family history. Each session has a short Q&A. For presentations check genealogy-family.com. Interactive census forms are also available on this site.

GENEALOGY II SIG

Meets 6:30 PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the LFPL-Jeffersontown Branch, 10635 Watterson Trail. Contact SIG LEADER Susan Moore at 499-5222 or mooresk@win.net

The Genealogy II SIG also helps you to understand The Master Genealogist software; however this SIG utilizes a Q&A format. You bring the questions and we can usually provide the answers. Having trouble with your TMG program on your laptop - bring it with you. We have plenty of room to setup your computer and check-out your problem.

KIPCUG Special Interest Group Directory (cont.)

HANDS ON SIG

Meets 2:00 PM the 4th Saturday of the month at the LFPL-Eline Branch at St. Matthews City Hall Building at the corner of Grandview Ave. & Fairfax Ave. 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Rd. Contact Co-SIG LEADERS Charley May at sig@win.net or Grant McCormick at gmccormick@win.net or Tom McArdle at usersig@insightbb.com

This is a chance to find some assistance and learn more about your PC. We will work with you to get your machine back up and running at top speed. We can help you build/upgrade your own PC. You need to bring your complete system, monitor, keyboard, mouse, cables and processor. Members with repair experience are encouraged to drop in and help.

HARDWARE SIG

Meets 6:30 PM the 1st Monday of the month at the LFPL-Eline Branch at St. Matthews City Hall Building, the corner of Grandview Ave./Fairfax Ave. 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Rd. Contact Co-SIG LEADERS Grant McCormick at gmccormick@win.net or Charley May at sig@win.net or 773-7155

We can help you expand the capabilities of your existing system. Learn how to add your own hard drive, audio or video card, memory module, DVD burner or build your own computer from the ground up. Learn the tips and techniques necessary for a successful hardware upgrade.

INTERMEDIATE USERS SIG

Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Monday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Jim Travelstead at jim.travelstead@louisville.edu or 852-4761(W), 375-4796(H)

The SIG focuses on various versions of MS Windows software, its features, methods of operation, and problems along with hints and tips. This SIG is for users who are comfortable with the daily use of their computer, have mastered their fear of computers, and are willing to push the envelope a little.

INVESTING SIG

Meets 6:30 PM the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Louisville Aero Club, Bowman Field. SIG LEADER Doc Viele at 452-6878

Meetings consist of round table information exchanges on any economic subject of current interest. Questions and presentations are encouraged. Each meeting will include general information on investing and the usual information exchange. This is not an investment club; they DO NOT discuss mutual funds.

NEW USERS DAYTIME SIG

Meets 2:00 PM on the 3rd Monday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Winnie Miller at winnie.miller@att.net

We welcome people new to computers. With practice, we hope to make you feel comfortable using the computer at home. Computers are available here for you to continue practicing your new skills on. Feel free to bring any questions and we'll try to answer them for you.

NEW USERS SIG SOUTH

Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Resurrection Episcopal Church at 4100 Southern Parkway in the Computer Lab. Contact SIG LEADER Charley May at sig@win.net or 773-7155

This SIG is geared to the level of most of the attendees to help them stay on track. We have computers for you to receive hands-on training while watching the presentation on the screen at the front of the room. Time is allotted for questions.

REAL ESTATE SIG

Restarting in January - Meets 6:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Bill Buzan at re_sig@insightbb.com or 639-7647

The mission of this SIG is to provide property owners and investors the opportunity to gain a greater insight

KIPUCG Special Interest Group Directory (cont.)

into the transaction, so that they can protect their endeavors more effectively.

TECHNICAL MARKET ANALYSIS SIG

New Location - Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Tuesday of the month at Old National Bank, 4201 Shelbyville Road, at the corner of Shelbyville Road and Hubbards Lane, in the rear meeting room. Contact SIG LEADER Myron Smith at 897-7718 or mjslks@insightbb.com

We use technical indicators to try to determine the near term direction of the market and hone our skills. The SIG uses a group discussion format to answer everyone's questions and attendees can tell how they use the indicators. We have discussions about the present market and use web-based indicators. Topics of interest are presented at many meetings.

UTILITIES SIG

Meets 6:30 PM on the 4th Thursday of the month at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact Co-SIG LEADERS Tom McArdle at usersig@insightbb.com or Charley May at sig@win.net or 773-7155

Examining a mix of freeware, shareware and retail programs, this SIG hopes to make your computer experience more enjoyable. Members may bring blank CD's to exchange for free and trial versions of featured utilities.

VISUAL BASIC SIG

Meets 6:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of the month at the LFPL-Bon Air Regional, 2816 Del Rio Place. Contact SIG LEADER Martin Campion at 810-9125 or mccampion@aol.com

This SIG discusses features of the Visual Basic program, frequently discussing games that are being developed or VB.Net.

WEBMASTERS SIG

Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM at Win.Net located at 1048 Chestnut St. Contact SIG

LEADER John Henderson at jh@inetmarketing.com or 812-945-1102

Learn how to build web sites! SIG consists of main presentation or discussion, tips and tricks that webmasters can build into their site, and Q & A session. Past presentations have included FrontPage, Dreamweaver, how to include video, JavaScript, cascading style sheets, image software, and "What's legal?" All knowledge levels welcome. Current topic posted at info.win.net/training.html.

WINDOWS OS SIG

Meets on the 2nd Friday of the month at 6:30 PM at CCUM at 4614 Brownsboro Road (US 42 & Blankenbaker Lane) in the Computer Lab (Room 222). Contact SIG LEADER Bob Rose at britdude@techemail.com or 241-1604

The group will focus on maintaining and updating Windows OS's to keep them performing at peak efficiency. The SIG includes topics covering Windows Operation Systems from Windows 95 through XP-SP2, with an emphasis on changing technology. Time is always reserved to resolve problems and answer questions members bring to the meeting.

HAVE
YOU
VISITED A
SIG
LATELY?

My Spyware

By Sandy Berger, Compu-KISS
www.compukiss.com

Everyone has computer woes...even me. Last week, my office computer slowed to a crawl when accessing anything on the office network or on the Internet. It was so slow that I was anxious to begin troubleshooting.

Since we had recently moved to a new office, the first suspect was the network cabling. I replaced cables on both ends and used my laptop to confirm that the network was fine. It was obvious that something in my computer was the problem. So the first order of business was to scan for viruses. Since I always use an up-to-date antivirus program, keep my operating system patched, and don't open uninvited attachments, I felt my computer was probably virus-free. The virus scan confirmed that my problem was caused by something other than a virus.

My next thought was that I probably had some spyware in my computer. These unwanted programs infiltrate computers without the user's knowledge. They can wreak havoc with a computer. So I ran a spyware detection program named Ad-Aware (www.adaware.com). This is a free program that I have used for years with good results. This time, it didn't find anything. So I turned to another favorite...Spybot Search and Destroy (www.spybot.com). Another free program, Spybot has turned up much spyware in the past. Yet, even though I updated both of these programs before I scanned my computer, neither found any spyware.

Now I had a dilemma. Since I could not find the problem, my next

step might have to be reformatting my hard drive and reinstalling all the programs. In trying to avoid that time-consuming hassle, I decided to try one more spyware program. On my desktop I had two additional free spyware tools that I downloaded for review, but had never used before: AOL's Automatic Spyware Protection (<http://daol.aol.com/safetycenter/spyware>) and Microsoft's Window's Defender (www.windowsdefender.com).

I decided to start with the AOL program. The scan was faster than either Ad-Aware or Spybot, and it unearthed several pieces of spyware that were not detected by the previous programs. I clicked the button that said "Eliminate Spyware" and my work was done. My computer was immediately back to normal.

It's unbelievable that I would have to use three programs to find the nasty spyware that was causing my problem, but this is the situation in today's spyware-infested computer world. The bad guys are always trying to stay one step ahead of the good guys and in some cases, they are obviously succeeding.

If you want to add the AOL software to your arsenal of anti-spyware tools, it is a simple download at the AOL Safety and Security Center at <http://daol.aol.com/safetycenter/spyware>. You will need to get a free AOL screen name before you download the software by entering your name, address, telephone, email, and date of birth. Be careful to download only what you need. AOL will offer you virus protection, a firewall, and an email program in addition to the spyware software. These may or may not be valuable to you. I checked out the free AOL

Active Virus Shield software which you can download at www.active-virusshield.com. This program is powered by Kaspersky Lab, one of the largest anti-virus providers, and has garnered good reviews. It is an excellent choice if you are looking for a free anti-virus program. AOL's free email program, however, is probably not as good as the email program you are already using.

Since my spyware detection encounter, I have also tried the Microsoft Window's Defender anti-spyware program and I liked it as well. A year ago I would have scoffed at anyone using more than one or two anti-spyware programs, but perhaps in today's computer environment, it's not overkill to have four anti-spyware programs!

Sandy Berger, The Compu-KISS® Lady...nationally respected computer authority, journalist, media guest, speaker, and author is a seasoned 30-year computer expert. Sandy is a consumer advocate promoting simplicity, ease-of-use, and stability in consumer technology products. She works with hardware and software developers to help them make their products more user-friendly.

Editor's Note: Sandy Berger's email is sandy@compukiss.com. This article is distributed by the APCUG Editorial Committee.

Are You "Compuliterate?"

By Berry F. Phillips, Member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City the eMonitor and <http://www.ccokc.org>

"Compuliteracy" Test (unknown author)

1. Who invented the computer? Mr. Chips, E.T., Marquis de Sade.
2. What are microchips? What a herd of micros leave on the prairie, What you eat with a microdip, The reason you had to take all those computer literacy courses.
3. What is a floppy disk? A painful lower-back condition, An album that didn't sell, A great Frisbee.
4. What is the first thing you associate with computers? Bill Cosby commercials, Eyestrain & headaches, Annoying beeps, Three tons of printout where once there was a 3-page report, All of the above.
5. What is FORTRAN? Between 3 and 5 tran, How to get computers excited before interface, Ridiculous.
6. What is Pascal? A leafy vegetable, A foot fungus, A city in southern France, None of the above.
7. When you need consulting help in deciding what to do with your computer, which organization do you think of? IBM, FBI, PLO?
8. What is the most important computer peripheral? Bill Gates, Someone to operate the computer for you, Aspirin.

Some years ago, I was staring at a demo game computer with that blank stare of a computer illiterate in a large computer store. I felt a tug

on my sleeve and there was a small lad who asked me rather impatiently, "Why don't you do something?" I confessed with great difficulty being an adult that I did not know what to do. This mini computer user said, "I will show you because I have this game at home." He began killing monsters right and left as I slunk out of the store in humiliation. I vowed from that day forward I would become computer literate because no eight-year-old was going to be more computer literate than I was!

I suspect you have some hands-on computer experience since you are reading my column. Computer literacy is today a necessity when entering the job market. I remember when Time Magazine awarded the computer, their coveted Man of the Year which dramatically illustrated the incredible impact the personal computer has had on our contemporary society. Computer literacy does not mean you need to know everything about a computer, but you should master the basics and understand how a computer works. I remember thinking that just because a person used a computer in a business that they must be computer literate. I discovered that many computer users only knew how to do limited applications necessary for them to do their specific work. Further, I noticed that many computer users, due to lack of computer literacy, were very limited in their use of their computers. Limited computer literacy usually translates into limited use of the computer, never experiencing the full potential of the computer and maximizing their return on their computer investment.

What alternatives are available to

accelerate one's level of computer literacy? Basic computer courses are offered by most continuing education programs. They are usually reasonably priced and conveniently scheduled. They can be found in your local school district, or community college on evenings and weekends. There are career retraining programs that often offer computer courses through your local Labor Department Office. There are also online courses and tutorials available and the public libraries have computers available to their patrons with Internet access.

I have found that computer clubs are an excellent choice for developing computer literacy since they are economical, and less theoretical and are more focused on how to operate the computer using various applications. Computer users helping other computer users move to the next level of computer literacy is an incredible learning and motivating experience. All of those who obtain computer literacy were once computer illiterates. As they were helped to reach computer literacy, they enjoy helping others as they were helped. You are never alone in your journey to reach computer literacy in a computer club; there is always another member to ask a question or to get hands-on help. Many computer clubs have computer labs, as does the Computer Club of Oklahoma City, www.ccokc.org (405-843-4300), which is also affiliated with the national Senior Net Users Group and the Association of PC Users Groups. If you are not in the Oklahoma City area, please contact the Association of PC Users Groups, www.apcug.org (800-558-6867) to check on an affiliated computer club in your area.

Are You "Compuliterate?" (cont.)

The sole objective of computer clubs is to help each other to reach computer literacy. We often hear from our members who have achieved computer literacy how when they started they wondered how they would ever use a computer and now how they will ever get along without a computer! The transition from computer illiteracy to literacy is truly amazing. Our mis-

sion is to help each other reach computer literacy with a variety of proven classes that will get you up to speed as soon as possible. The Computer Club of Oklahoma City believes the only unintelligent question is the unasked question! Obtaining computer literacy is not a luxury, but an absolute necessity in our rapidly evolving technological society.

I hope that I remain "compuliterate" because those eight-year-olds are getting more and more "compuliterate", especially the older I get!

Editor's Note: Berry F. Phillips's email is bfpdata@laccess.net. This article is distributed by the APCUG Editorial Committee.



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